



Tannenbaum Historic Park



Blast from the Past



Hi!

My name is Joseph Hoskins. I grew up in Guilford County in the colonial days. If you had been a kid during colonial times, what would your life have been like? In each newsletter, you will learn a little more about me and my life...

Joseph's Summer Day, 1790

After I got up before dawn this morning, I gathered firewood for cooking. Mom gets mad if I get pine because it smokes and makes the food taste bad. So, I got some oak from the tree we cut down near the creek next to Mr. White's property. Then I fed and watered the animals before eating breakfast. We have two horses, three cows and five sheep. After a breakfast of mush and milk, I headed out again to help my dad and my brother, John, around the farm.

Lately, I have to do even more around the farm than normal because my Dad was elected Sheriff just a couple of months ago. But he's always done a lot of work for the county. He's been a road surveyor, tax-collector, constable, patroller and deputy sheriff before becoming the sheriff. He has to spend a whole lot of time at the courthouse and jail in Martinville. It was named after our governor, Alexander Martin. The

town changed its name five years ago; before that it was called Guilford Courthouse. That's about a mile and a half down New Garden Road from my house. You've probably heard of it; there was a big battle there against the British in 1781, but I was too little to remember much of what happened. Sometimes Dad lets me hang around the courthouse while he's working. It's kind of neat to see all the people who come to the court from all over the county.

But for now I've got to get back to work.

Joseph Hoskins Jr. was born in Guilford County not long after his parents arrived here in 1778. By the summer of 1790, he was 11 years old and lived with his mom, Hannah, his dad Joseph Sr., his sisters Elizabeth (14), Hannah (9), and Ann (2), and his brothers John (16), and Eli (6).

How do we know about Joseph's life?

The **will of Joseph Hoskins Sr.** (Joseph's dad) listed his family members and the property he owned. It also included their animals. The **Guilford County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1781-1811** tells us about all the jobs Joseph Hoskins Sr. did for the county and when he did them. Every February, May, August and November, people came from all over Guilford County to conduct business, trade goods and visit with their neighbors. The **Land deed from James Ross to Joseph Hoskins Sr.** lets us know about the types of trees on the Hoskins' property, where they were and the neighbors who lived on each side of their land. The **1790, 1800 and 1810 censuses** include the names, ages, and number of people living in each household throughout Guilford County.

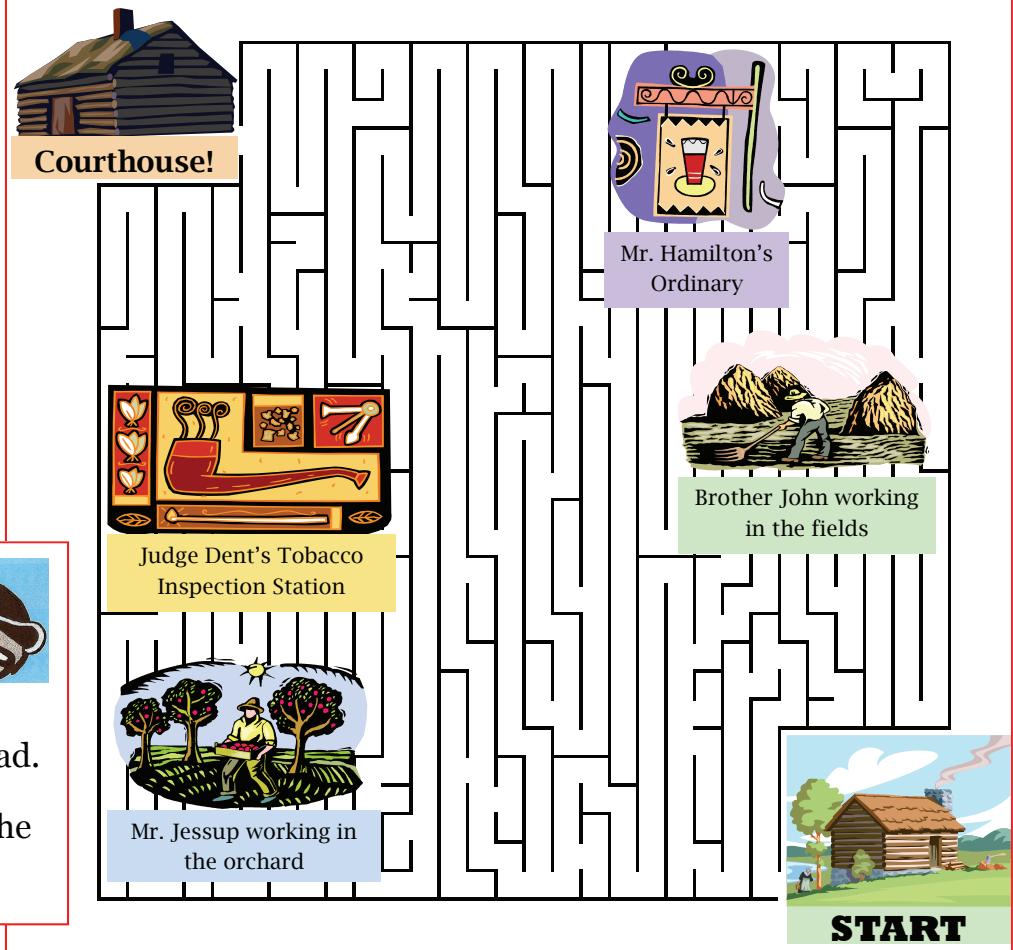
Tannenbaum Historic Park

Greensboro Parks & Recreation
2200 New Garden Road
Greensboro, NC 27410
Phone: 336.545.5315
Fax: 336.545.5315
history@greensboro-nc.gov
Tuesday-Saturday 10-4

EXPLORE HISTORY!



Find the path up New Garden Road from Joseph's House to the Courthouse to meet his dad.
Don't stop to visit along the way...dad's waiting!



Name this newsletter!



Do you like the name BLAST FROM THE PAST for this newsletter? We like it, but we are not convinced that it is the BEST name. So, we are having a contest to let you come up with a new name for

the Tannenbaum Park kids' newsletter!

Vote yes for "Blast from the Past" or tell us what name you think is better by sending us a postcard or email.

(All of our contact information is on the top of this page!)

The winner will get their name and picture published in the next newsletter!

A Colonial Spy?

There is a great early reader book that you can read or read to a friend in the kids' library at Tannenbaum Historic Park. It is called *Buttons for General Washington*.

The story, by Peter and Connie Roop, is about a 14 year old boy who acts as a spy for the American Army in Philadelphia in 1777!

Our kids' library is part of the "Pastime Playroom" in the Colonial Heritage Center at Tannenbaum Historic Park.



There are lots of great books in the Kids Library at the Colonial Heritage Center

The room is full of history-related toys and activities. Bring an adult and color colonial pictures, play colonial games, build a colonial house or read a colonial story!